



WHICKHAM URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

(ABRIDGED)

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1973

Health Department,
Council Offices,
Whickham,
Newcastle upon Tyne.

Telephone :
Whickham 887141

March 1974

To the Chairman and Members of the
Whickham Urban District Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the abridged Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1973.

Statistics have been compiled and put into the Report, although returns of births and deaths are necessarily incomplete.

Detailed comments made in the preamble of my Annual Report in 1972 still apply in substance.

Progress in sanitary and health measures continued satisfactorily. I would thank members of the Health Committee and the Council for their co-operation and understanding which has helped me greatly in my own task and made the Department's efforts rewarding. The willing co-operation, when required, of the staff of other Departments of the Council has been greatly appreciated.

The work of the employees of the Health Department continued at a high level, the good relations existing within this Department contributed very considerably to the very satisfactory standard which has been maintained. My thanks are due to all the Officers of the Department for their continued excellent work.

The helpful collaboration of the County Medical Officer and his staff and the County Social Services Department, for their assistance when required, must be recorded with thanks.

The Area Health Clerk, Mrs. Martin, continued to carry out her duties to the community in her usual efficient manner, her relationship with the public in connection with Personal Health Services, having been excellent.

My thanks to all voluntary bodies and Organisations outside of Local Government who have done so much for the community and have collaborated so willingly in supplying me with information regarding their activities.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

JOHN A. DRYDEN

Medical Officer of Health

I. SOCIAL CONDITIONS AND PHYSICAL FEATURES

There is little variation from what was reported in the 1972 report.

II. STATISTICS

General

Acreage - 6,213

Number of inhabited houses :-

Council - 3,522 Other - 7,452 Total - 10,976

Number of Other Premises : - 1,255

Rateable Value :- £2,196,246

Vital

Population - 1931 - 20,750

1951 - 23,116

1973 - 29,710


Density of persons per house : 2.706

Live Births:

	Male	Female	Total
Number 	4	6	10
(transferable births have not yet been received)			

Deaths:

	Male	Female	Total
Number 	102	77	179
(transferable deaths have not yet been received)			



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III.

PERSONAL HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

National Health Services Act, 1946
Social Services Act, 1970

Blood Transfusion Service

The Regional Blood Transfusion Service has its Headquarters in the Newcastle General Hospital. It provides all necessary services for this District. It has a Donor Panel Department which organises and maintains Blood Donor Panels in each locality. In this District, during 1973, sessions were held as under. The figures show the strength of the panel on the dates listed, and the number of donations which were received on those dates.

Name of Panel	Sessions Centre	Dates of Sessions	Strength of Panel	Attendance
Dunston	St. Nicholas' Church Hall, King George Avenue	17th January 8th August	235 235	119 119
*Swalwell	Community Association Hall, Clavering Road	7th May	see below	48
Whickham	Community Association Hall, Front Street	20th March 10th July 16th October 24th December	484 484 484 484	137 115 121 126

* This panel was disbanded in December 1973, due to poor support and the donors have been transferred to the session centre of their choice in Whickham, Blaydon or Dunston; the majority of the donors opted for the Whickham session centre.

Mass Miniature Radiography

The Mass Radiography Unit which serves this District is Unit 1A, which is based on the Newcastle General Hospital. Since April 1969, a Mobile Mass X-ray Unit has been sited, on Tuesday afternoons, on the waste ground near Thomas Terrace, Blaydon, to which General Practitioners may refer patients for chest X-ray without appointment. The general public also made use of it. The statistics for No.1 Health Area (Blaydon, Ryton and Whickham Urban Districts) are given below.

Group	Number X-rayed	Referred to Chest Clinic	Tuberculosis Treatment	Supervision only	Neoplasm
Doctors referrals	201	23	-	3	-
General public	299	10	-	1	1
Firms	67	4	1	1	-
Contact cases	7	-	-	-	-
Totals	574	37	1	5	1

Personal Health Services

Chiropody Service

As part of its responsibilities as the Local Health Authority for the District, the County Council finances the Chiropody Service run by the Old People's Welfare Committee. The actual chiropody treatment is carried out by fully qualified chiropodists and all residents of pensionable age and handicapped persons approved by the County Council are eligible for this service should they require it.

Local Sanitary Authority

(a) Meals on Wheels

A Meals on Wheels Service, sponsored and financed by this Council and run by the Whickham Branch of the Women's Royal Voluntary Service, was commenced in 1963. At the beginning of the year, 181 recipients were catered for, 90 of whom had hot meals delivered three times per week, 89 received meals twice per week and 2 persons had meals delivered 5 times per week. The following figures show the phased increase during 1973.

Period	No. of Recipients	2 times per week	3 times per week	5 times per week	Total No. of meals
January/March	181	89	90	2	5,954
April/June	184	96	86	2	5,980
July/September	186	95	88	3	6,097
October/December	188	97	87	4	6,175

Total number of meals delivered during the year - 24,206

(b) Old People's Welfare Committee

This Committee continued to hold its usual quarterly meeting in the Council Chamber. Praiseworthy progress has continued and the Committee remains a very active body.

I have to report that all four Luncheon Clubs referred to in my 1972 Report have continued in operation at the same high level. No further Chiropody Clinics have been opened during the year but all four reported on in 1972 have continued their activities satisfactorily and comparably with the work done in 1972.

(i) Luncheon Clubs

Details of each Luncheon Club are given below :

Club	Date of opening	Number on Register	Number of Sessions per week	Average Attendance per Session
Dunston	11. 3.65.	67	1	63
Whickham	13.10.65.	40	1	37
Swalwell	20. 4.66.	52	1	50
Marley Hill	5.10.66.	50	1	49

(ii) Chiropody

Details of each Chiropody Clinic at the end of 1973 are given below :

Centre	Date of Opening	Number of Sessions per month	Persons over Pensionable Age		Handicapped Persons below Pensionable Age	
			Number treated	Number of treatments	Number treated	Number of treatments
Dunston	27. 7.65	10	300	709	9	36
Swalwell	29. 7.65	8	137	697	-	-
Whickham	22. 2.65	10	257	769	2	8
Marley Hill	6. 1.66	8	164	832	-	-

Total number of persons treated - 869

Total number of treatments given - 3133

HOUSING ACTS, 1924 - 1957

Aged Persons Accommodation

Under the Housing Acts 1924-1957, the Council has provided two Housing Units, each consisting of 32 bed-sitting accommodation with a resident warden, and 16 1-bedroomed bungalows and 16 bungalows with bed-sitting accommodation and a dwelling for a resident warden. In addition, 80 bungalows and 125 flats have been provided for aged persons.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948-1951

Section 21 - Provision of Residential Accommodation

Hostel accommodation is provided by the County in No.1 Health Area at :-

Winton House, Parkhead Estate, Winlotion	...	Tele. No.	Blaydon	2900
"The Hermitage", Front Street, Whickham	...	Tele. No.	Whickham	887372
Tynedale House, Ryton	...	Tele. No.	Ryton	2009

At the end of the year, 87 residents of No.1 Health Area were accommodated in Residential Part III Accommodation.

Section 47 - Removal to Suitable Premises of Persons in Need of Care and Attention

No action was necessary under this part of the Act.

Section 50 - Burial and Cremation of the Dead

No action was necessary under this part of the Act.

IV. PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

PREVALENCE

The number of cases of infectious diseases notified during the year was 145, as compared with 168 in 1972.

Table showing Numbers of Notifications during 1973

	Number of cases 1973 Notified		
	Male	Female	Total
Acute Encephalitis	-	-	-
Acute Menigitis	-	1	1
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-
Dysertery	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	6	2	8
Infective Jaundice	1	4	5
Paratyphoid Fever	-	-	-
Typhoid Fever	-	-	-
Anthrax	-	-	-
Leprosy	-	-	-
Leptospirosis	-	-	-
Measles	78	42	120
Whooping Cough	1	-	1
Malaria	-	-	-
Tetanus	-	-	-
Yellow Fever	-	-	-
*Other Quarantinable Diseases	-	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	3	1	4
Tuberculosis :			
Respiratory	4	2	6
Meninges and C.N.S.	-	-	-
Other Forms	-	-	-
Totals	93	52	145

* The following are quarantinable diseases -
Cholera, Plague, Smallpox and Typhus

Tuberculosis - Cases Notified during 1972 and 1973

Year		Male	Female	Total
1973	Respiratory	4	2	6
	Non-Respiratory	-	-	-
1972	Totals	4	3	7

The number of cases on the tuberculosis register at the end of 1973 was 110 compared with 105 at the end of 1972, comprising of 92 respiratory cases and 18 non-respiratory cases.

Tuberculosis Attack Rate (Incidence per 1,000 population for 1973)

	Whickham U.D.	Administrative County of Durham	England and Wales
Respiratory	.200	.175	.177
Non-Respiratory	.000	.025	.050
Total	.200	.201	.227

CONTROL

Tuberculosis

B.C.G. Vaccination

Details of the B.C.G. vaccination programme carried out by the Area Health Services in schools in the District are given below.

	Given Skin Test	Positive Reactors	Negative Reactors given B.C.G.	1 ^o Positive Reactors given B.C.G.
Dunston Hill Comprehensive	210	22	172	16
Whickham Comprehensive	238	46	182	35
Totals :	448	68	354	51

V. ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

(A) Environmental Health Provisions

1. Water Supply

The Dunston, Swalwell and the greater part of the Whickham Wards are supplied by the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company; and the Marley Hill Ward and a small part of the Whickham Wards are supplied by the Durham County Water Board.

With the exception of one house, all dwelling houses in the District are supplied by direct mains. Chemical and bacteriological samples of the private water supply proved to be satisfactory.

The mains water was of good quality, the supply being continuous and plentiful. Six samples were taken by the Department for bacteriological examination, all samples being found to be satisfactory.

Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company

A total of 1024 works control samples from the Whittle Dene and Henderson Filters were examined in the Company's Laboratory during the calendar year ended 31st December, 1973, all of which were of satisfactory quality, although coliform organisms were detected on seven occasions.

In addition to the foregoing, 251 samples of water from the Coquet Water Board's Warkworth Plant were taken at Longbenton Governor House and 52 samples of the water leaving the works were also examined. All were satisfactory and coliform organisms were detected only once.

The Company's Laboratory staff took 222 samples from premises in Local Authority Areas and 83 from fixed sampling points in the City. 357 samples were also taken from fixed sampling points by Newcastle Corporation's Public Health Staff. Of the 662 samples, all were satisfactory except two which were satisfactory after checking. Of the samples taken by the Company's staff, in local authority areas, 12 were from Whickham.

9,953 dwellings in the District were supplied by the Company.

Durham County Water Board

The natural fluoride content in the water supplied to Whickham Urban District was, prior to 18th September, 1970, between 0.15 and 0.6 parts per million when fluoridation was introduced bringing the fluoride content to the maintenance level of 1 part per million.

2. Closet Accommodation

With the exception of several farms and isolated houses where sewers are not available, all houses in the District are provided with water closets.

Efforts continued to be made to eliminate privies and other closets and the number has shown a slight reduction during the year.

The following table summarises closet accommodation.

Water closets	...	...	...	11,821
Privies	...	...	...	9
Closets other than water closets	...			5

3. Collection and Disposal of Refuse

The collection and disposal of all household and trade refuse continued to be organised so as to enable a collection to be made from all premises at least once per week.

Refuse collection was carried out by three Shelvoke and Drewry Pakamatic 50 cubic yard capacity compression vehicles, with a fore and after tipping vehicle held as a spare in case of breakdown.

The disposal sack system continued to be extended in 1973 and, by the end of the year, 4,294 houses were provided with disposal sack units.

Tipping continued on the refuse tip rented from Blaydon Rugby Football Club, Swalwell, refuse being levelled and covered with soil by the use of a J.C.B. Tractor with shovel attachment.

4. Drainage and Sewerage

With the exception of the Dam Head Sewage Disposal Works taking the drainage from 750 houses on the Clavering Park and Clavering Grange Estates, Whickham, most of the sewage from the District continued to be discharged, untreated, directly into the Rivers Derwent and Tyne.

5. Atmospheric Pollution

Domestic Smoke

The Whickham No. 11 Smoke Control Order, 1972, came into effect on 1st July, and the Whickham No. 12 Smoke Control Order, 1972, came into operation on 1st November.

By the end of the year 6,950 premises were included in Smoke Control Areas.

6. Noise Abatement

Two complaints of noise were received. These were dealt with informally and the noise was subsequently reduced to an acceptable level.

7. Moveable Dwellings and Caravan Sites

There is only one licensed caravan site in the District; no more than 4 caravans can be parked on this site at any one time. It is well kept and it was not found necessary to draw the site-owner's attention to any contraventions of the conditions of the licence.

It was not found necessary to take any action in respect of any unauthorised site users in the District.

8. Shops Act, 1950

The Council is a Shops Act Authority.

38 visits were made for the purpose of the Act and to ensure that the statutory closing hours were observed.

9. Factories

53 inspections were made during the year, the work carried out is shown in the Appendix to this Report.

10. Common Lodging Houses

There are no common lodging houses in the District.

11. Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

(a) Rodent Control

		Type of Property	
		<u>Non-Agricultural</u>	<u>Agricultural</u>
1.	No. of properties in the District	12,231	41
2.	(a) No. of properties inspected following notification	393	15
	(b) No. infested by (i) Rats ...	65	13
	(ii) Mice ...	75	2
3.	(a) No. of properties inspected other than by notification ...	85	88
	(b) No. infested by (i) Rats ...	80	88
	(ii) Mice ...	2	-

One sewer treatment was carried out during the year.

(b) Insect Control

As with rats and mice, the Department carry out remedial measures free of charge to householders, a charge being made for business premises. A total of 251 treatments were carried out during the year.

10. Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963

Routine inspections of premises, registered in accordance with the above Act, were carried out. Contraventions found were again generally of a minor nature and it was not found necessary to take any formal action to have notices complied with.

Seven accidents were reported during the year, all being of a minor nature and not being due to any negligence on the part of the employers.

The following table shows contraventions of the Act discovered during the year :-

Section	Number of Contraventions found	Section	Number of Contraventions found
4	Cleanliness ... -	15	Eating facilities ... -
5	Overcrowding ... -	16	Floors, passages and stairs 1
6	Temperature ... 3	17	Fencing of exposed parts of machinery -
7	Ventilation ... -	18	Protection of young persons from dangerous machinery... -
8	Lighting ... -	19	Training of young persons working at dangerous machinery -
9	Sanitary Conveniences 4	23	Prohibition of heavy work . -
10	Washing Facilities . 7	24	First Aid 5
11	Supply of drinking water -		Other matters 3
12	Clothing accommodation -		Total 23
13	Sitting facilities -		
14	Seats (Sedentary Workers) ... -		

REGISTRATION

Class of Premises	No. of Premises Registered during the year	Total No. of Registered Premises at end of year	No. of Registered premises receiving a general inspection during the year
Office	-	30	8
Retail shops	1	97	38
Wholesale shops, warehouses	-	4	-
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens	-	29	9
Fuel storage depots	-	-	-
Total	1	160	55

Number of visits by inspectors to all kinds of registered premises - 114

ANALYSIS OF PERSONS EMPLOYED IN REGISTERED PREMISES BY WORKPLACE

Class of Workplace	Number of persons employed
Offices	227
Retail shops	348
Wholesale Shops, warehouses	20
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens	183
Fuel storage depots	12
Total	790
Total Males	295
Total Females	495

SUMMARY OF SANITARY DEFECTS AND NUISANCES REMEDIED

	No. of Inspection- tions	No. of Informal Notices served	No. of Statutory Notices served	Defects remedied after Notices
Housing :-				
Public Health & Housing Acts	806	116	1	102
Sanitary Conveniences :-				
Defective	11	2	-	4
Drainage	149	9	2	16
Food Premises/Unfit Food	150	12	-	4
Moveable Dwellings	7	-	-	-
Factories Act, 1961	53	1	-	1
Clean Air Act, 1956	1,181	11	65	459
Smoke Nuisances	14	1	-	1
Prevention of Damage by				
Pests Act	55	3	-	3
Refuse Collection & Disposal	578	10	-	9
Accumulation of Refuse	82	3	-	3
Infectious Diseases	168	-	-	-
Housing Act, 1969 :-				
Standard Grants	199	-	-	-
Qualification Certificates	147	-	-	-
Dirty or Verminous Premises	10	2	-	2
Sampling	39	-	-	-
Noise Abatement Act, 1960	18	2	-	2
Offices, Shops & Railway				
Premises Act, 1963	114	10	-	10
Scrap Metal Dealers Act, 1964	4	-	-	-
Civic Amenities Act	16	5	-	5
Totals	3,801	187	68	621

(B) INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(1) Inspections

150 visits were made to food premises in the District and it was only found necessary to serve 12 notices drawing attention to the infringement of Regulations.

Generally, where notices are served on traders they recognise their obligations and notices are complied with promptly and standards of food hygiene in the District are satisfactory.

(2) Food Sampling

The Durham County Council is the Food and Drugs Authority for the District and enforces the sampling provisions of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

A total of 140 samples were taken during the year and details can be obtained from the Chief Environmental Health Officer, Gateshead Metropolitan District Council, on request.

(3) Registration of Premises

The number and types of registered premises in the District are as follows :-

Ice Cream	...	...	82
Preserved Foods	...	...	3
Fried Fish Shops	...	...	11

(C) HOUSING

(1) Private Housing

No slum clearance work was carried out during the year and no individual unfit houses were dealt with.

Closing and Demolition of Houses

(a)	Number of houses demolished during the year as a result of Clearance Schemes or other formal action	Nil
(b)	Number of houses closed as a result of formal action ...	Nil
(c)	Number of houses in Clearance Areas and individual unfit houses, demolition of which was temporarily postponed	Nil
(d)	Number of houses in use as temporary accommodation ...	Nil

Reconditioning and Repair

Details of houses made fit during the year are as follows :-

(a)	As a result of informal action	7
(b)	By owners as a result of statutory notice	Nil
(c)	By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil

HOUSING ACT, 1969

Improvement Grants

Applications		Number of Separate Houses Discretionary Grants	Standard Grants
(a)	Applications submitted to Local Authority during 1973	515	25
(b)	Applications rejected by Local Authority during 1973	-	-
(c)	Total number of applications approved since inception of scheme	1,129	803
(d)	Total number of grants paid since inception of scheme	845	606

Qualification Certificates

During the year, landlords of houses satisfying the qualifying conditions laid down in the Housing Act, 1969, continued to apply to the Council for Qualification Certificates to enable Controlled Tenancies to become Regulated Tenancies with rents registered by the Rent Officer.

By the end of the year, 25 further applications had been received, and 22 had been approved by the Council. 16 applications had been received for Provisional Qualification Certificates which allow a fair rent to be registered before improvements are carried out to a house where a controlled tenancy exists, and 19 were approved by the Council.

APPENDIX
FACTORIES ACT. 1961

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health in respect of the Year 1973 for the Urban District of Whickham in the County Of Durham.

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration of the Factories Act, 1961.

Part 1 of the Act

1. INSPECTIONS for purpose of provisions as to health (including inspections made by the Public Health Inspector).

	Number on Register	Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	3	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	83	43	1	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	13	7	-	-
Total -	97	53	1	-

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were FOUND

	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective Drainage of Floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS -	1	1	-	-	-

Outworkers

There are four outworkers in the District engaged in the making of wearing apparel.

No contraventions of the Act were noted and no cases of default in sending in lists of outworkers to the Council were reported.

No occasions arose for the service of notices or for prosecution under the Act.

STAFF OF HEALTH DEPARTMENT

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

John A. Dryden, M.A., B.Sc., M.B., B.Chir., M.F.C.M., D.P.H., D.I.H.

SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

G. Hall, D.M.A., Cert. R.S.I. and S.I.E. Joint Board; Cert. of R.S.I. Inspector of Meat and Other Foods; Diploma of R.S.H. Smoke Inspector.

DEPUTY SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

E. Johnson, Cert. of the P.H.I.E.B., Diploma of the R.S.H. for the Inspection of Meat and Other Foods; Diploma of R.S.H. Smoke Inspector.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

J. Ramsay, Diploma of the P.H.I.E. Board

CLERK OF THE DEPARTMENT

Mrs. M.E. Crowe

RODENT OPERATIVE AND DISINFECTION OFFICER

J. Johnson
